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DE RUEHBU #0578 1352103
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 152103Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3721
INFO RUCNMER/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0291
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1329
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0797
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0034
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1517
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 1338
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0052

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 000578

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/BSC AND OES/OPA FOR EVAN BLOOM

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [TPHY](#) [AR](#)
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA AND CLAIM TO ANTARCTIC CONTINENTAL SHELF:
DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 48493

¶1. (SBU) On May 14, ESTHCouns met with Ricardo Larriera, Chief of Staff of Argentina's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, to deliver talking points in reftel and request that the GOA submit a revised note to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). Larriera was the MFA official who had delivered to us the non-paper on Argentina's claim on April 21. Larriera took note of USG concerns, which he pledged to transmit. ESTHCouns left the talking points behind as a non-paper. Post will follow up within the next few days with the MFA.

¶2. (SBU) ESTHCouns subsequently met on April 15 with the New Zealand Ambassador to Argentina, Lucy Duncan, to discuss the issue. Duncan noted that she had also been given the same non-paper by the GOA on April 21. She agreed that it was important for other countries, in particular New Zealand and Australia, to share their concerns with the GOA, so as to make it clear that the GOA actions were of concern to all Antarctic stakeholders. She said that she expected demarche instructions from Wellington shortly, but added that she would speak to her Australian counterpart to emphasize the importance of joint action. Duncan noted it was important to handle the issue at a high level at the MFA and to bypass Antarctic Director Ariel Mansi, as we had done, and said she would do the same when instructed to go in. She thought that a high-level, non-public approach would help in ensuring that this does not turn into an electoral issue (legislative elections take place on June 28). Post shares this assessment, and the Front Office will take advantage of an upcoming opportunity next week to stress the strong USG concerns to senior levels of the MFA.

WAYNE